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LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 May 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-12199 (E) 140596 150596

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Annex

Letter dated 9 May 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that United States and British warplanes are continuing to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and to carry out acts of aggression, provocation and incitement in civilian areas in northern and southern Iraq.

1. At 1400 hours on 26 April 1996, a United States aircraft dropped an incendiary phosphorous substance with a detonator for the purpose of setting fire to crops in the Karkhush area of northern Iraq.

2. At 0930 hours on 27 April 1996, a United States aircraft dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets in the Dayr district near Basra.

3. At 0800 hours on 28 April 1996, two enemy aircraft approaching from Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace. One of them dropped hostile leaflets in the Kutayban area and the other flew towards the Safwan area in Basra Governorate.

4. At 0815 hours on 28 April 1996, an enemy aircraft dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets near the Nashwah area in Basra Governorate.

5. At 0830 and 1005 hours on 28 April 1996, four United States helicopters approaching from Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraqi airspace and dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets in parts of Basra Governorate. They then returned towards Kuwaiti airspace, flying at a speed of 180 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 1,000 metres.

6. At 0930 hours on 28 May 1996, an enemy aircraft approaching from Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace near Jabal Sanam and dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets on Basra international airport.

7. At 1700 hours on 28 April 1996, a United States aircraft approaching from Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace and dropped hostile and inflammatory leaflets in the Nashwah area in Basra Governorate.

I request you to intervene with the countries in question, as required by your responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to ensuring that these activities are halted and not subsequently repeated. They pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq; they alarm the civilian population and cause damage to private and public property; and they constitute gross violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation, in accordance with the principle of international liability, for the material and moral damage sustained by the people of the Republic of Iraq as a result of such acts.

I request circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq